

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03864 191325Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
NEAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SY-05 OPR-02
A-01 CU-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 SCS-03
SCA-01 USSS-00 MCT-01 /097 W
-----191337Z 007371 /45

O 191230Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1045

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3864

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ISLAMABAD FROM KARACHI 19 APR
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE
C O N F I D E N T I A L KARACHI 1851

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, PK
SUBJECT: SECURITY AND POLITICAL SITUATION IN SIND

1. A TRANSPORM WORKERS STRIKE CALLED FOR APRIL 19 WAS
CALLED OFF. NEITHER THE PNA NOR THE STUDENTS ACTION
COMMITTEE HAD BACKED THE STRIKE CWUL AND AD UNDERSTAND
THAT THE PARACHI PNA ASKED THAT THE STRIKE BE CANCELLED
SO AS NOT TO DETRACT FROM THE MAJOR PLA PROCESSION
SCHEDULED FOR 4:00 PM TODAY. THE PAKISTAN NATIONAL
MAZDOOR ALLIANCE ACTION COMMITTEE, WHICH HAD CALLED
THE STRIKE, COMPLIED AND THEN MERGED ITSELF INTO THE
PNA.

2. SEVERAL SOURCES, INCLUDING THE PRESS, REPORT THAT
THE PNA HAS ISSUED A CALL FOR A GENERAL STRIKE BEGINNING
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 03864 191325Z

APRIL 20. THIS CALL IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN ISSUED NOT ONLY
IN KARACHI BUT ALSO IN LAHORE, HYDERABAD, LYALLPUR
AND MULTAN AMONG OTHER CITIES. THE PRO-PPP PROCESSION
OF SINDHI FISHERMEN AND PEASANTS IS STILL ON FOR THE 20TH,
GAMBWANC REPORTS. SLATED FOR MALIR, IT HOPEFULLY WILL
NOT BECOME ENTANGLED WITH PNA ACTIVITIES.

3. ELSEWHERE ON THE LABOR FRONT, THE STRIKE OF PIA FLIGHT DECK PERSONNEL CONTINUES. THE KESC WORKERS ARE DOWN-ING TOOLS TWO HOURS PER DAY IN SUPPORT OF THEIR DEMANDS, BUT THERE IS DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE A POWER SHUTDOWN BECAUSE THE PNA REPORTEDLY FEELS THAT THIS MIGHT SO IRRITATE THE PUBLIC AS TO BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE FOR ITS CAUSE. THERE IS VIRTUALLY NO MOVEMENT UP COUNTRY OF TRUCKS CARRYING GENERAL CARGO OR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS. THIS STOPPAGE IS VARIOUSLY ATTRIBUTED TO THE REPORTED INABILITY OF STORAGE FACILITIES UP COUNTRY TO RECEIVE THE GOODS, TO SUPPOSED THREATS OF MASSIVE HIJACKING, AND TO THE DRIVERS' DESIRE TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT OF THE PNA. MANY IF NOT MOST OF THE LABOR DISPUTES AND ACTIONS NOW CROPPING OUT STEM FROM GENUINE INDUSTRIAL GRIEVANCES BUT THEY ARE BEING PUT FORWARD AT THIS TIME APPARENTLY TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CLIMATE OF UNREST AND TO AID THE CAUSE OF THE PNA.

4. PROCESSIONS TOOK PLACE IN THE USUAL SIND CITIES YESTERDAY. THE TURNOUT WAS LARGE IN KARACHI, INCLUDING A BIG AUDIENCE FOR GENERAL NIAZI. ALTHOUGH MOST DEMONSTRATIONS IN KARACHI WERE PEACEFUL, SEVERAL PPP OFFICES AND A BUS WERE SET AFIRE. THE PRO-PPP STUDENTS MARCHED AGAIN YESTERDAY AND TOWARDS THE END OF THEIR DEMONSTRATION WERE ENGAGED IN A STONE THROWING FIGHT BY PRESUMED PNA SUPPORTERS. THERE WERE INJURIES BUT REPORTEDLY NONE OF THEM SERIOUS. IN HYDERABAD THERE WERE MORE SEVERE CLASHES BETWEEN THE RIVAL GROUPS. THE ADMISSION OF EIGHT PERSONS TO HOSPITAL WITH KNIFE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 03864 191325Z

OR BULLET WOUNDS IS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND WE HAVE AN UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT THREE STUDENTS WERE KILLED. PRO-PNA MEMONSTRATORS ARE REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO HAVE STONED ARMY TROOPS IN HYDERABAD.

5. THERE IS NO SIGN OF SOFTENING OF THE PNA POSITION IN KARACHI IN THE WAKE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S FORTHCOMING GESTURES WITH REGARD TO PROHIBITION AND ISLAMIC LAW. MOST OBSERVERS AGREE THAT HIS ATTEMPT TO CURRY FAVOR WITH THE RELIGIOUS PARTIES FAILED, AND THAT HIS OVERTURES TO THE OPPOSITION ARE VIEWED AS NOT ONLY TOO LITTLE AND TOO LATE BUT AS IRRELEVANT TO THE PRESENT SITUATION. THE PNA LINE TO ITS SUPPORTERS IN KARACHI IS TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON BUT TO AVOID VIOLENCE. INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO AVOID CONFRONTATIONS WITH PPP ELEMENTS. (THE DAILY ATTACKS ON PPP PREMISES ARE EXPLAINED AS UNDISCIPLINED DEPARTURES FROM PNA POLICY.) APPARENTLY THE LOCAL PNA LEADERSHIP BELIEVES THERE IS SOME DANGER OF THE PUBLIC COMING TO BLAME THE PARTY INSTEAD OF THE

AUTHORITIES FOR THE PERSISTENT DISRUPTION OF NORMAL LIFE
UNLESS THE PARTY ESCHEWS VIOLENCE.

6. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO QUANLIFY THEM AT THIS POINT, BUT
INFLATIONARY PRESSURES CLEARLY ARE GROWING AND BECOMING
A WORRY TO MANY OBSERVERS. PRICES OF GOODS AT RETAIL
HAVE RISEN. THE DECLINE IN INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION DURING
THIS PROLONGED PERIOD OF UPSET IS BOUND TO HAVE ITS EFFECT,
AS IS THE RECURRENT INTERRUPTION OF THE FLOW OF GOODS
THROUGH THE PORT. PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY INEVITABLY
HAVE DECREASED. THE INCREASED PAY FOR GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY BY PIRZADA IS VIEWED
BY MOST AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES,
NOT A CURE FOR THEM. IN AN IRONIC TWIST, THE BAN ON
NIGHT CLUBS, GAMBLING AND ALCOHOL THREATENS TO PUT MANY
PEOPLE OUT OF WORK. SOME ESTIMATE THAT THESE INDUSTRIES
PROVIDED AS MANY AS 100 THOUSAND JOBS COUNTRY-WIDE.
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PAGE 04 ISLAMA 03864 191325Z

THEY ALSO PROVIDED SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE TO THE SIND
GOVERNMENT.

7. THE PRESS APRIL 19 CARRIED A RELEASE FROM G.M.
SYED'S JEEAY SIND (LONG LIVE SIND) ORGANIZATION VOICING
SUPPORT FOR PNA DEMANDS, THOUGH GAMBWANI ASSERTS THAT
MOST OF THE MEMBERS ARE IN FACT PRO-PPP.
MOORE UNQUOTE
BYROADE

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NNN

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